



MINUTES
APPROVED: 11/5/07



Stratham Memorial School - Vision Committee

MONDAY - OCTOBER 1, 2007 - 6:30 PM

Stratham Memorial School Library

39 Gifford Farm Road

Stratham, New Hampshire

Present: Luke Breton, Stratham School Board-Chair/Committee Co-Chair; John Hazekamp, Stratham School Board/Committee Co-Chair; Tom Fosher, Principal; Laura Batchelder, SMS Teacher Representative; Lisa Calandra, Joe Kenick III, Judy Merrill, Mark Poirier, Travis Thompson, Jon Tymann, Jeff Wilson.

Absent: Tony Baldassarro, Rogers Johnson, Doug Scamman.

Audience: Rebecca Ruel.

Handouts: Minutes - 9/10/07 (unapproved), Agenda - 10/1/07, 8 pages of materials.

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance - Mr. Breton opened the meeting at 6:40 P.M.

2. Approval of Minutes - September 10, 2007 revisions suggested.

3. Visitor Comments - None

4. Discussion - Testing Impact - Co-chair Breton and the committee talked about the challenges of administering testing at SMS. The state NECAP (used to meet our NCLB obligation) is a much more space needs driven test while the NWEA-MAP test is more of a challenge on technology. As a Data Driven SAU, though, both serve different functions and provide the necessary multiple data points needed to make sound curriculum decisions. Testing requirements under this law, currently addressing math, reading and writing, will be increasing with the passage of recent legislation requiring future testing of social studies and science. The accommodations requirements of the state's NECAP testing of individual students affected by such things as absences, section 504 requirements, IDEA requirement, as well as, individual student's general needs have the biggest impact on space. These accommodation needs follow the pattern seen in other programming requirements in pointing to a need for more adaptive space for use with small groups.

5. Discussion - Appropriate Class Size - Co-chair Hazekamp and the committee talked about SMS classroom sizes, as they relate to school capacity, and how they've declined over time since the introduction of the practice of inclusion modeling back in the 1990s. These changes are also the result of research driven initiatives. Currently the average class at SMS is in line with state wide averages and are more or less in keeping with best practices. A discussion on the definition of capacity concluded that the use of "practical capacity" highlighted in a handout provided by Mr Hazekamp, and also identified in the Board's February 2007 "Building Use Analysis" pamphlet, was the definition most useful for planning purposes, as well as the definition most reflective of community desires. This was in contrast to the definition spelled out in the state minimum standards, as well as a recent Health Department Report, which allowed for exceptionally large numbers of students per class. The committee also discussed alternatives in dealing with larger numbers of students per class such as adding para professional staff if needed.

6. Old Business - None

7. New Business / Wrap-up - Chose the topic of Related Arts for the November meeting; with no meeting in December and a discussion of demographics for the January meeting who's date is yet to be determined

The Committee's materials are now available on the SAU 16 website with video recordings of the meetings also available at the town library courtesy of Minuteman Documentation.

8. Next Meeting Date - November 5, 2007 - 6:30 PM / Related Arts Impact; No December meeting.

9. Adjournment - 8:45 PM